

**Lectionary readings: Acts 2: 1-21; Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b; Romans 8: 14-17; John 14: 8-17 (Pentecost)**

**For reflection and prayer**

- **Acts 2:** We will never understand what happened on the Day of Pentecost, except that God's Spirit came in a remarkable and obvious way to the disciples, with the result that they were changed people, able to communicate the Gospel in a language everyone could understand - the language of love. Peter who, when confronted by a servant girl, didn't have the courage to admit that he was a disciple, is now filled with a boldness that is not his own, and preaches a Gospel that is inclusive; all are within the loving embrace of God. Look for God's presence this week, not in the spectacular way in which He seems to have come on that day when the Spirit was outpoured, but in the ordinary, everyday events of your life. And let's go forward in the power of the Spirit, letting the love of God be unleashed in us and among us, radiating light, life, joy and hope.
- **Psalm 104:** Here are a few verses from 'Psalms for Praying', a modern interpretation which brings a fresh, contemporary feel to them. *'O that we might receive Your gifts, taking only what is needed with grateful hearts .... When You send Your Spirit, new life is born .... May all who feel separated from You open their hearts to new life.'* This last one (verse 35) is a contemporary rendering of *'Let all sinners vanish from the face of the earth; let the wicked disappear forever.'* I'm sure you will agree that the modern interpretation is

in line with the God of love that we believe in. You might like to reflect on these verses this week.

- **Romans 8:** Our true identity is God's beloved children. We can call God our Father, for He loves each one of us dearly. And yet I find so many people have great difficulty in seeing themselves as God's beloved. God has given us His Spirit to dwell in our hearts and give us grace and strength and courage. There is no need for us to fear, for we are in the hands of our loving Father. We are all subject to fears and anxieties, for this is part of what it means to be human. At such times, God wants us to remember His love for us and His presence in our hearts. So each day this week let's remind ourselves often that God calls us His beloved, and He is with us, no matter what happens. Let us live out of our true identity which is God's beloved one.
- **John 14:** Jesus lived by the Spirit of God when He was on earth. And He wants us to live in the power of that same Spirit today. If we do, we will do greater things than He did. He says that the godless world in which we live doesn't have eyes to see God; but we have to show them God through the lives that we live - lives of love, lives of forgiveness, lives of peace, lives which show that God is present in us. We need this constant reminder that we are never left on our own: the Spirit of God is God's gift to each one of us and He it is who gives us courage to become all that God wants us to become, individually and as a church. So let's go forward in faith and hope, sharing our life together, allowing God to transform us as He did the disciples on the Day of Pentecost, so that we communicate in the universal language of God's unconditional love to the glory of His Name and the building of His Kingdom here on earth.